

Sprint Docket 1220a

Remarks

Claims 1-75 were pending and rejected. Claims 1-75 have been cancelled and new claims 76-95 have been added. Applicant requests allowance of claims 76-95.

Old claims 1-75 were rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. patent 6,470,008. A terminal disclaimer is included to overcome this rejection.

Old claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-16, 19-21, 23-30, 33-35, 37-43, 46-47, 49-54, 57-58, 60-66, 69-70, and 72-75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over U.S. patent 6,529,501 (Zhao). Claims 1-75 have been cancelled and new claims 86-95 have been added. New claims 86-95 are patentable over Zhao.

Zhao includes address mapping server 46 that selects internet addresses for telephone calls received into network access encoder 44. (See Zhao, Figures 2-7). Address mapping server 46 uses the following sequence when selecting an internet address.

1. Address mapping server 46 first looks for a "type I address" – which is the internet address of the called party's internet telephone (i.e. computer 50).
2. If there is no type I address, then address mapping server 46 looks for a "type II address" – which is the internet address of an encoder at remote central office 40.
3. If there is no type II address, then address mapping server 46 looks for a "type III address" – which is the internet address of an encoder at internet service provider 56 that is associated with remote central office 40.

The processing sequence of address mapping server 46 is clear. The first choice is an end-user internet address. The second choice is a central office 40 internet address. The third choice is an ISP 56 internet address.

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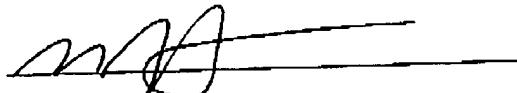
The claimed routing system uses a different priority for internet address selection. The claimed routing system uses the following sequence when selecting an internet address.

1. The claimed routing system first looks for an internet address of the internet service provider that received the call. Thus, the routing system initially attempts to keep the call within the same internet service provider if that internet service provider serves the destination. Zhao does not do this.
2. If the first internet service provider does not serve the destination, then the claimed routing system looks for an internet address of another internet service provider that serves the destination. Thus, the routing system attempts to route the call to another service provider near the destination if the same internet service provider cannot be used.
3. If the first internet service provider and the second internet service provider do not serve the destination, then the claimed routing system looks for an internet address of a PSTN interface. Thus, the routing system routes the call over the PSTN if a suitable internet service provider does not serve the destination. Zhao does not do this.

In comparison, Zhao does not attempt to keep the call within the same internet service provider that received the call. In addition, Zhao does not select a PSTN interface if no suitable internet service provider is available. Claims 76-95 are patentable over Zhao.

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Old claims 4,-5, 9, 17-18, 22, 31-32, 36, 44-45, 48, 55-56, 59, 67-68, and 71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(e) over U.S. patent 6,529,501 (Zhao) in view of U.S. patent 6,754,181 (Elliot). Claims 1-75 have been cancelled and new claims 86-95 have been added. New claims 86-95 are patentable over Zhao for the reasons listed above. Elliot does not provide the teachings that are identified above as missing from Zhao. Thus, claims 76-95 are patentable over Zhao in view of Elliot.

**SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER**

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